

March 5th, 2014

## Letter-Expression of Interest

### VIA ECFS

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street. SW
Washington, DC 20024

Please accept this filing as a replacement for confirmation numbers 2014228639469 & 2018542668.

RE: Expression of Interest-Rural Broadband Trials, Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express my interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Trials announced at the January 30<sup>th</sup> FCC Open Meeting. It is submitted on behalf of Mountain Communications LLC dba ProCom (FCC registration number 8039323).

## Back Ground.

Mountain Communications is a CLEC who provides Internet and Telephone services in a resell environment in the states of West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In addition, Mountain is a facilities based (Fiber to the Home) carrier in parts of Garrett County, Maryland. Although Mountain has over two thousand CLEC small to medium business customers in the four states listed, its core business is serving local government and the medical field, along with business and residential customers in Garrett County, with TV, Internet, and Telephone services. Mountains network is 100% Fiber and it uses GPON chassis manufactured by Motorola and Zhone. Mountain currently has all colocation sites

necessary with Verizon and Frontier to service its On Net FTTH customers and is compliant with 911, Universal Service, LNPA, and CPNI requirements. Mountain would like to explore doing an experiment with the help of the Connect America Fund to expand its existing FTTH Network into the more rural areas of Garrett County. An independent consultant hired by Garrett County determined that the service area selected currently does not have access to any broadband Internet other than very limited 3G wireless, DSL (not in all areas), and satellite type services. You may get more information at Mountains web site <a href="http://www.4-procom.com">http://www.4-procom.com</a>.

## Geographic Territory

The service area that Mountain would like to use for the experiment is sections 1 and 6 of the attached map (Garrett County Map). These sections are in the census blocks listed in the attached (Census Block file). This experiment would consist of approximately 90 miles of roads (see attached Broadband Expansion file) and pass 1,455 homes and businesses. It would not only provide broadband Internet but would also provide TV and Telephone services to the area. Mountain is not asking for help with the customer premise equipment or the fiber drops to each home to connect each customer to the network, but only to help build the fiber. Existing FTTH chassis' are already in place to serve this area along with all collocation and PSTN connections. The area consist of mostly farm land, residential housing, and small businesses. As you will see below, the cost of installing the fiber will be approximately \$2,061.00 per home passed.

## **Broadband Technology**

Mountains existing GPON network can deliver Internet at Gig capacity. This is more than enough for any customer in the area. In addition, the back bone is fiber, so as new technology is developed in the future the network can be updated by changing the equipment that runs the network rather than the network itself.

## Service Offerings

Mountains Service offerings can be bundled or purchased as a single product. The most popular bundle for residential customers is our ProDigi triple play which includes 200 channels of TV, an unlimited local and long distance (48 states) telephone line and a 10mg down/7mg up Internet connection for \$89.99 per month. Customers can add HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Encore, and Stars for an additional \$10.00 per month. If customers request individual services the pricing is as follows:

## TV (Business and Residential)

TV Life Line Basic \$29.99

Premiere Digital \$62.50

Gold (Includes HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Encore, and Stars) \$72.50

Telephone (Unlimited Local and Long Distance 48 states)

Business \$30.00 per POTs line, PRI's \$425.00 with unlimited DID's.

Residential \$25.00 per POT's line.

#### Internet

Residential Down speed/Up speed:

5mg/2mg \$39.99

7mg/4mg \$43.99

10mg/7mg \$69.99

15mg/10mg \$89.99

20mg/15mg \$100.99

30mg/20mg \$120.99

40mg/30mg \$160.99

50mg/40mg \$210.99

80mg/70mg \$300.99

100mg/90mg \$425.99

Business rates add \$10.00 to the residential rate up to the 20mg/15mg. Speeds above 20mg/15mg business rates increase by \$25.00 over the residential rate.

## State and Local government support

As an independent, for Profit Company Mountain does not ask for support from State and Local government. However, we do have support from local government to expedite permits and access to right of ways (See attached Support Letter).

## **Project Timeline**

From our experience of past builds Mountain is confident that the whole project can be built and customers served within one year of the funding date.

# Funding

The request for funding of this experiment is a request that will only need to be made one time. Mountain only needs help building the fiber. We do not need funding for customer premise equipment, fiber drops to each customer, or continued maintenance of the experiment. Below is a summary of funding that would be requested in our formal proposal.

# Approximate Network build cost:

90 miles of 72 count fiber \$268,757.00

47.8 miles of conduit \$252,384.00

70 splice cases \$31,500.00

70 Pon splitters \$52,500.00

47.8 miles of labor to bury conduit \$1,673,000.00

41.5 miles of fiber installation to poles \$415,000.00

Make Ready cost (Ariel fiber) \$300,000.00

Administration and development of network (Including additional PON cards) \$250,000.00

Total funding needed for completion \$3,004,141.00

## Closing

On behalf of Mountain Communications I would like to thank the FCC for giving Mountain the opportunity to submit this experiment request. We are looking forward to submitting the actual proposal when directed to do so.

Sincerely,

Larry J Sisler

Managing Member

Mountain Communications LLC dba Procom